Doubling of Railway Track in Uttar Pradesh

†2154. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal of doubling the Lucknow-Gorakhpur-Bhatni-Varanasi railway track in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether any survey has been conducted for this purpose;

(c) if so, the details of the survey conducted;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) by when doubling of Lucknow-Gorakhpur-Bhatni-Varanasi railway sections in Uttar Pradesh is likely to be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (e) There is no proposal for the doubling of entire line between Lucknow and Varanasi *via* Gorakhpur, Bhatni. The doubling work on this section has been taken up in patches. The patch doubling between Lucknow-Barabanki, Burhwal-Gonda and Gorakhpur-Domingarh sections has already been completed. Doubling of Gonda-Babhanan, Domingarh-Sahjanwa-Munderwa sections have been taken up. Survey on balance section between Lucknow and Bhatni have also been taken up.

For Bhatni-Varanasi section, survey for doubling has not been taken up in view of present traffic scenario.

Safety related Vacancies in Railways

2155. SHRIMATI S. G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railways had undertaken a massive drive to fill the safety related vacancies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Railways had also decided to provide training to safety personnel for new techniques of railway operation and safety; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Railways have been directed to fill up about 80,000 vacant posts relating to Safety, Security and operational categories either by direct recruitment from open market or promotion from amongst serving employees, as the case may be, by the year 2006.

(c) and (d) The Railways are in the continuous process of training the staff in the latest technologies by updating their knowledge and skills, through refresher and specialized courses. During the year 2003-04, number of staff trained in the refresher and specialized courses are 92,481 and 90,614 respectively.

Construction of overbridges/underbridges in North Eastern Region

2156. SHRI NABAM REBIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of overbridges/underbridges under construction in the country particularly in the North Eastern Region, project-wise;

(b) the details of proposals received by the various State Governments for construction of overbridges/underbridges at railway crossings; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) There are 428 works of Road over/under bridges (ROB/RUB) sanctioned on cost sharing basis in the country and are under various stages of planning, design and construction. Further, 15 new works are being included in the Supplementary Demands for Grant for the year 2005-06. The details of ROB/RUB works sanctioned on cost sharing basis on North-east Frontier Railway which serves the north-east region of country is given in the Statement attached (*See* below).

Railway construct the Road over/under bridges (ROB/RUB) across railway tracks in lieu of busy level crossings on cost sharing basis where the traffic density is more than one lakh Train Vehicle Units (TVUs), other-wise on deposit terms. Proposals in both cases have to be sponsored by the concerned State Government/Road Authorities duly fulfilling certain preliminary pre-requisites *viz.* giving undertakings to bear their share of cost, to close the level crossing on completion of ROB/RUB etc. On receipt of such firm proposal Railway take appropriate action to include the proposals in their budget.